

s a below named inventor, I hereby declare that

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

IMAGE ENCODING APPARATUS, METHOD AND MEDIUM

| Case No, <u>09792909-4826</u> , the | e specification of which | |
|---|---|--|
| (check X one) | is attached hereto was filed on February 1, 2001 Application Serial No. 09/775,157 and was amended on (if applicable | |
| | we reviewed and understand the contents do by any amendment referred to above. | |
| | | Office all information which is known to me h Titel 37, Code of Federal Regulations. 1.56 ¹ |
| before my or our invention there our invention thereof or more the United States of America meen patented or made the subjection to the United States of than twelve months prior to this | reof, or patented or described in any pri han one year prior of this application, the nore than one year prior to this application ect of an inventor's certificate issued be America on an application filed by me of a application, and that no application for country foreign to the United States of | on or used in the United States of America anted publication in any country before my or nat the same was not in public use or on sale in on, and I believe that the invention has not efore the date of this application in any country or my legal representatives or assigns more or patent or inventor's certificate on this America prior to this application by me or my |
| application(s) for patent or inve Prior Foreign Applicat | ion(s) | |
| Number | Country | Date |
| P11-030275 | Japan | February 2, 2000 |
| | tion on which priority is claims: | ventor's certificate having a filing date before |
| Number | Country | Date |
| 1 (b) Under this section, information beind made of record in the application. | | t cumulative to information already of record or |

⁽¹⁾ It establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a primafacie case of unpatentability of a claim; or

⁽²⁾ It refutes, or is inconsistent with, a position the application takes in:

⁽i) opposing an argument of unpatentability relied on by the Office, or

⁽ii) asserting an argument of patentability.

A prima facie case of unpatentability is established when the information compels a conclusion that a claim is unpatentable under the preponderance of evidence, burden of proof standard, giving each term in the claim its broadest reasonable construction consistent with the specification, and before any consideration is given to evidence which may be submitted in an attempt to establish a contrary conclusion of patentability.

If no priority is claimed, I have identified all foreign patent applications filed prior to this application: Prior Foreign Application(s)

Number

Country

Date

I hereby appoint the following attorneys, Kevin W. Guynn (No. 29,927), David R. Metzger (Reg. 32,919), Janelle D. Strode (Reg. 34,738), Michael L. Kiklis (Reg. 38,939), Jordan A. Sigale (Reg. 39,028), Jeffrey W. Wheeler (Reg. 39,066), Michael A. Molano (Reg. 39,777), Jennifer H. Hammond (Reg. 41,814), Marina N. Saito (Reg. 42,121), Lana M. Knedlik (Reg. 42,748), Alison P. Schwartz (Reg. 43,863), Christopher P. Rauch (Reg. 45,034), Francisco A. Rubio-Campos (Reg. 45,358), Gregory B. Gulliver (Reg. 44,138) and Brian J. Gill (Reg. P46,727); of the firm of Sonnenschein, Nath & Rosenthal, with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith and request that all correspondence and telephone calls in respect to this application be directed to::

SONNENSCHEIN NATH & ROSENTHAL

80th Floor – Sears Tower 233 S. Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60606 Telephone 312/876-8000 Facsimile 312/876-3974

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

| Full name of sole or firs | t inventor TAKEFUMI NAGUMO | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|---------|----------------|--|
| Inventor's signature Residence | Takofini Nagumo. Tokyo, Japan | Date | April 16.2001 | |
| Citizenship | Japan | | | |
| Post Office Address | c/o Sony Corporation, 7-35, Kitashinagawa 6 | 5-chome | | |
| | Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo 141, Japan | | | |
| Full name of second inv | rentor YOICHI YAGASAKI | | | |
| Inventor's signature Residence | Justi Jagasofic Tokyo, Japan | Date | April 16. 2001 | |
| Citizenship | Japan | | | |
| Post Office Address | c/o Sony Corporation, 7-35, Kitashinagawa 6-chome | | | |
| | Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo 141, Japan | | | |
| Full name of third inven | ntor | | | |
| Inventor's signature | | Date | | |
| Residence | | | | |
| Citizenship | | | | |
| Post Office Address | | | | |
| | | | | |